



Newtownhamilton High School

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Thursday 25th March 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

This is the last whole school correspondence that I intend to issue before the Easter holidays. Please therefore take time to read the following information and share it with your child/children.

Year 8-11 Remote Learning

I have recently been made aware that some pupils have been struggling to keep up-to-date with some aspects of their remote learning and are feeling a bit overwhelmed. Therefore, in the interest of pupil welfare, **I have made a decision that Years 8-11 Remote Learning will finish this Friday (26th) at 3.00pm and that all pupils should use the last 2 days of term (Monday 29th & Tuesday 30th March) to catch up on any missed work or recap on previous work covered.** Teachers will remain available online to offer any support/guidance during these 2 days.

Throughout this period of remote learning, I have constantly made reference to how challenging this experience has been for pupils, parents and staff and that nothing will ever replace good old fashioned face-to-face teaching. I therefore want to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for their contributions.



Supervised Learning (Monday 29th - Tuesday 30th March)

Despite the early end to our Years 8-11 Remote Learning, our Supervised Learning provision will still be available for parents/guardians on Monday 29th & Tuesday 30th March. Any new parents/guardians who wish to avail of this service should contact myself via email (nmegaw549@c2kni.net) before 12 noon on the day before the required date.

Year 8-11 Return to School (Monday 12th April)

As previously communicated, Years 8-11 pupils will return to face-to-face teaching in school on Monday 12th April. Our school buses and canteen will resume their full service from this date while pupils can continue to wear PE kit on the days that they are timetabled for PE lessons. School hoodies will again be permitted with the wearing of uniform as there will be increased ventilation within the building. It is noted that latest Department of Education / Education Authority guidance now makes the wearing of face coverings compulsory inside school buildings and on home to school transport.

Year 12 Assessments

It was great to see our Year 12 pupils return to school this week and they have quickly settled back into school life. Unfortunately, our Year 12 pupils will face a challenging few weeks ahead as they complete a series of assessments that will provide teachers with the necessary evidence to create Centre Determined Grades (CDGs). **I therefore strongly recommend that pupils use the Easter holidays productively in order to prepare for forthcoming assessments.**

Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) Update

In my previous correspondence on 19/03/21, I explained that schools are now required to regularly test pupils and staff who do not have symptoms of COVID-19 using Lateral Flow Testing. I am now in a position to confirm that this programme is currently only available to Year 12-14 pupils and staff so there is no option for Years 8-11 to participate.

Board of Governors' Report 2019/20

It is noted that the 29th Board of Governors' Report of Newtownhamilton High School is now available to read for interested parties. This report, which can be requested from the school office from Monday 29th March onwards, provides a broad summary of the school's activity and achievements during the 2019/20 school year up until our forced closure on 20th March 2020 due to COVID-19.

Holiday Period Queries

As we approach the holiday period, I will be instructing my staff again to 'power off' all electronic devices so that they can enjoy important family time after what has been a very different and challenging Spring term.



I will be available on the school premises to deal with any queries/concerns up until 5.00pm on Wednesday 31st March and will also be checking my emails at regular intervals during the holiday period. Therefore, please direct all school related queries only to me (nmegaw549@c2kni.net) during the holidays.

Finally, I wish everyone an enjoyable Easter break and look forward to having all our pupils back in school again after the holidays.

Yours faithfully

Neil Megaw

Principal

Forthcoming Key Dates

Friday 26 th March	Years 8-11 Remote Learning ends @ 3.00pm
Monday 29 th – Tuesday 30 th March	Year 12 Face-to-Face Teaching Years 8-11 Remote Learning Catch Up
Tuesday 30 th March	End of Spring Term @ 3.00pm
Wednesday 31 st March – Friday 9 th April (inclusive dates)	Easter Holidays
Wednesday 31 st March	Qualification Procedure Day 1 (school open only for teaching staff)
Monday 12 th April	Start of Summer Term for Years 8-12